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Good Afternoon Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Linda Beers,

I am a secretary at Cheshire Correctional Institution and I am here on behalf of my fellow clerical coworkers as well as myself.

We are requesting that our union contract be revised to include hazardous duty retirement and benefits the same as other union employees. We work inside the gates of a maximum-security facility. As secretaries we are at risk just as much as the online staff. We walk throughout the facility numerous times a day, while inmate mass movement is in progress, as well as supervise inmate workers. The potential to be caught in the middle of a riot, assaulted or worse yet held hostage is great.

Where is the justification that online staff and supervisors get the hazardous benefits and secretaries who work inside the same maximum-security prison do not receive the same benefits.

We encourage you to come visit and tour the facility, so you may see exactly what transpires throughout the day.

Your consideration and support in this very important issue is greatly appreciated.